

UNH Nursing Program receives national recognition

By Isabelle Curtis  
STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Nursing department has received a No. 63 ranking for its master’s programs from U.S. News and World Report. This achievement makes UNH’s master’s nursing program the highest-ranked in northern New England.

“We were pleased to see that the work we do puts us among peers that we are proud to be a part of,” said Gene Harkless, associate professor and chair of the department of nursing. “It documents what we’ve known all along that we have a very strong nursing program, and this was a way to show it to others.”

The demand for health care workers in New Hampshire, especially in rural and underserved communities, is not a new issue. According to a December 2018 survey, over 2,000 health care worker

vacancies existed in hospitals and community mental health centers across New Hampshire. This situation has only worsened due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Harkless, in a previous interview with the New Hampshire, credited part of the worker shortage to changes in the care available—such as the rise of at-home care—and the high level of medical skills required for many treatments. Another problem is the care demands of New Hampshire’s rapidly aging population. It is estimated that by 2030 almost one-third of the state’s inhabitants will be over 65.

UNH’s nursing program has endeavored to meet these health care demands through the creation of new graduate programs, such as nurse practitioner programs that focus on psychiatric mental health and adult gerontology acute care. The adult gerontology acute care program will welcome its first group of students in



Photos courtesy of The University of New Hampshire.

August. In addition, UNH has a direct entry master’s in nursing (DEMN) program that “offers an accelerated clinical nurse leader track for those without a prior nursing degree.”

Harkless says that DEMN “has contributed significantly to helping workforce needs” as it allows individuals to gain nurse certification and enter the workforce without having to complete a second baccalaureate.

UNH and the state of New Hampshire are also working to address health care shortages through the development of the College of Health and Hu-

man Services’ Health Sciences Simulation Center (HSSC). The structure will include offices, classrooms, common meeting spaces, and “fully equipped simulation labs that mimic hospital, clinic, primary care and other health care settings,” according to a UNH press release.

The center hopes to encourage interdisciplinary cooperation for students majoring in health and human services - including nursing, occupational therapy, athletic training, and health sciences - who will work with each other during simulations.

HSSC’s additional space

will also allow the nursing program to expand with the goal to graduate about 130 nursing students per year.

Construction on the HSSC is set to be completed in August.

Aside from the nursing department’s programs, Harkless expressed pride in the nursing faculty and students who “have helped grow and innovate this program” and the work they have accomplished during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She credits Patricia Pucilli, nursing clinical associate

Nursing Program  
continued on page 3



Fraternity members allege malpractice during quarantine

By Brackett Lyons  
STAFF WRITER

Durham, NH -- Fraternity members at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) faced financial pressure to honor their leases – and a higher risk of infection in crowded residence halls – this past school year.

Long stretches of quarantine where no members could leave the house pushed some within the houses into desperation. In order to develop immunity among themselves and escape continuous quarantine, members chose to intentionally spread the coronavirus (CO-

VID-19) among themselves.

Over 2,400 students are active members of Greek life at UNH. They belong to the eight sororities and 13 fraternities officially recognized by the university. Their numbers account for 17% of the UNH student population. Most of those students live in houses just off the UNH campus. They live in rooms that hold anywhere from one to four students. Many houses have shared bathrooms, dining areas and common spaces. These students all faced the question of whether they should risk living in a group setting during the COVID-19

pandemic or remain home.

Many members had already signed their leases before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States last spring. According to a UNH junior and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE), and two other UNH fraternity members, no opt-out was offered by fraternity landlords, and prices remained at their pre-pandemic levels despite the risks of group living. A member who wished to remain anonymous confirmed that he paid \$450 a week to live in the SAE house.

With no opt-outs, members had to choose between paying

for room and board that they weren’t using or risk living in a group setting during a pandemic. The member said that it was

irresponsible for SAE’s Finan-

SAE COVID  
continued on page 3



Photo courtesy of UNH Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Mask ordinance  
in review

UNH COVID-19  
update

NH recovers from  
its drought

Safe summer  
op-ed

Men’s soccer loses  
to Kentucky





Nursing Program  
continued from page 1

professor and undergraduate program director, for coordinating vaccine distribution in the UNH community. Earlier in the

year, Puccilli was able to set up a last-minute clinic for faculty before the leftover vaccines expired.

“Once we began to plan for student vaccinations [Puccilli] became one of the keystones

of that committee and has proven herself to be a leader in accomplishing the number of vaccines that have been given to both faculty and students,” said Harkless. “It’s been really amazing.”

She also stressed the instrumental role of UNH nursing students have played as nursing assistants and vaccine distributors.

“[Nursing students] were able to provide a really foun-

dational workforce for vaccine clinics, and we’re going to be instrumental in making sure the university is [vaccinated],” Harkless said. “This is really giving back to the community and we’re happy to do it.”

SAE COVID  
continued from page 1

cial and Housing Corporation, the landlord, to hold students to the leases.

Three SAE members said the housing corporation made promises that were supposed to make up for the risk of group living. These promises included an off-campus apartment for members to isolate in if they contracted COVID-19 and additional cleaning services. One member said that SAE went back on the promise of an apartment once they found out UNH would offer COVID-19 isolation dorms for off-campus students.

“I guess they spoke with the university, and the university said that they were accepting ... students into their isolation dorms,” said the SAE member. “So, then we were supposed to go there.”

Cases began to spike at UNH in early February. Throughout the fall semester and winter break, active cases at UNH never reached more than 106. When students returned for the spring semester, cases spiked. By Feb. 11, UNH had 266 active cases and would peak at 506 on Feb 19. President James Dean announced that UNH would transition its mode of operation from yellow to orange. This announcement meant that all face-to-face instruction would end and that off-campus students could not isolate or quarantine on campus. With 402 people in

isolation on campus, UNH hit capacity. Greek life members were no longer able to leave the house if they tested positive unless they had somewhere to stay.

Before the change in quarantine policy, COVID-19 numbers were contained in the fraternity houses. One SAE member attests that only two SAE members contracted COVID-19 before Feb. 11. Within a day of President Deans’ announcement of orange mode, four SAE members tested positive. With nowhere to go, sick students remained isolated within the house.

It can be hard to slow the spread of COVID-19 within a normal living situation. It was nearly impossible to stop in a fraternity house.

“We live in a group setting,” said one member of SAE who wished not to be named. “We all use the same bathrooms; we all eat in the same area. So, it was pretty much impossible for everyone not to get it.”

Dr. Peter Degnan M.D., medical director of UNH Health & Wellness, said the existing structure for living and sleeping quarters within the houses made an environment that put members at a higher risk than other students.

“We’re aware that both fraternity and sorority houses are not single rooms, but they’re actually often bunk rooms with at least four inhabitants,” Degnan said. “So, when you add to the very close sleeping quarters and then also, to some extent, the social nature

of community rooms, and then also dining facilities where it’s very difficult to adequately physically distance in those environments, that makes the risk of spread much greater.”

Degnan said that he personally feels students should have been given the option to opt-out of their leases for those very reasons.

“I mean, I’m not speaking from the university perspective, but personally, my own personal belief is that there should have been provisions made for students to be able to opt-out of contractual obligations out of interest in their own personal safety,” he said.

One SAE member said that he felt powerless due to neither his fraternity’s corporation nor UNH stepping in.

“The lack of communication between the fraternity corporation and UNH kind of left us out to dry, and it put us in a very unsafe predicament and scenario that we had no control over,” he said.

He said he returned home in hopes of avoiding contracting COVID-19. He hoped to wait out the spread through the house and return when it was safe. He also felt that he should be reimbursed for his time at home due to active COVID-19 cases within the house. According to the anonymous member, SAE told him that because the house remained open and cleaning and culinary services were still being provided, that he’d get no financial reimbursement. SAE’s Financial and Housing corporation did

not respond to emails sent to its main office seeking comment on this story.

He ended up contracting COVID-19. He believes he was infected just before he left the SAE house. He chose to return to Durham rather than risk exposing his parents to COVID-19. Life in the house for him and his brothers was challenging. They faced a two-week quarantine period if any member tested positive. The two weeks reset if any members’ tests came back positive. While the house was under quarantine, no one could attend classes in person or use UNH facilities.

Even as cases at UNH declined and the campus returned to yellow mode, cases within houses continued to rise. Three other UNH fraternity members said that they felt trapped and confined during long stretches of quarantine that went on for weeks and months on end. Members noted that the cases weren’t all at once but just slowly worked their way through houses, keeping them in quarantine continuously.

“People were getting really frustrated with continually having to re-quarantine and not be able to leave or go to classes or go to the gym or use any amenities of the school,” said one junior in SAE, who wished to remain anonymous.

That frustration led to a decision by fraternity members. Two anonymous fraternity members revealed that the intentional spread of COVID-19 was rampant in UNH Greek

life. Most felt that if all or most of the house could contract COVID-19, their quarantine would be all at once, and then they could enjoy the rest of the semester COVID-free.

“It got to a point where I just chose to like try to get it actively because my life was just way worse trying not to,” said a 21-year-old member of SAE, who wished to remain anonymous.

“They [fraternity brothers] were like, I want to just get this over with, be immune for three months and be able to live like normal people,” said another.

Members of SAE said that the spreading was done by relaxing social distancing guidelines, abandoning of masks and in some cases breathing or coughing into another member’s face.

Degnan said he had no knowledge of intentional spread at UNH or in any fraternities. “I do not know if that has actually occurred,” he said. “I understand some of the philosophy and some of the sentiment of that. I have no knowledge as to whether the students actually engaged in that practice or not.”

23 out of 30 SAE members that live in the house contracted COVID-19 in the spring 2021 semester. UNH administration did not respond to requests for comment or questions about the policies during orange mode or cases within Greek life houses.

# COVID-19 at UNH: Spring semester in review

By Katie Hopper  
NEWS EDITOR

Spring 2021 was the third semester coronavirus (COVID-19) was present in the streets of Durham. This spring students continued to test regularly, use Wildcat Pass, take hybrid classes and follow additional safety restrictions. COVID-19 took up a lot of TNH’s reporting this spring and below is a compilation of that work.

February marked the introduction to the term “COVID fatigue.” Students returned to campus after an extended winter break and brought university-high COVID-19 rates with

them. The university reached a peak positivity rate of 1.66% with 428 students in isolation and 629 in quarantine. University quarantine and isolation facilities started to experience capacity issues which lead to UNH Department of Housing and Residential Life (housing) to convert a student dorm in The Minis to additional quarantine space. These record high positivity rates also shifted the university to ‘orange mode,’ moving all classes online and placing further restrictions on campus. After one week the university allowed for classes to resume, keeping other restrictions in place.

March marked the official

one-year anniversary of the pandemic. The university returned to ‘yellow mode’ of operations which is the level of operations UNH remained at for the rest of the semester. University Resident Assistants (RAs) started a petition to request hazard pay, saying that they were not compensated for the additional labor and risk required during a pandemic. After a few weeks of the petition circulating around campus, housing announced that due to lack of funding they would not be able to offer this additional compensation to RAs. The university announced the detection of the more contagious U.K. variant on campus in addition

to plans for the university to be fully open for the fall 2021 semester.

On April 1 every resident of New Hampshire aged 16 and older was eligible to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. The following week, the university hosted two vaccine clinics for both in-state students and faculty. Gov. Chris Sununu initially did not allow out-of-state students to receive a shot in N.H. This rule sparked frustration within the student body, university and town officials. UNH Student Body President and Vice President Nicholas Fitzgerald and Tyler Silverwood signed a letter with other student leaders advocat-

ing for out-of-state students to be eligible. After this advocacy, Sununu announced out-of-state students could receive the vaccine on April 15. UNH hosted an additional vaccine clinic for interested students on April 19.

During this month UNH announced the use of wastewater testing system, and Sununu announced the expiration of the state-wide mask mandate due to vaccinations increasing and the statewide caseload decreasing.

Although the state lifted its mask mandate, the university announced that their masking and testing protocols would remain in place for the rest of the semester.

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# Year in review: Durham's mask ordinance



*Photos courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.*

*Anna Kate Munsey / TNH Staff*

**By Alexa Gagne**  
CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

When the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prompted widespread mask wearing, the federal government left states and towns to decide whether or not it was enforceable. Despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's advice to wear a mask in any public place, it took months for ordinances to appear in many communities.

About five months after the nationwide lockdown, Durham, N.H. was one of the first Seacoast communities to have a mask mandate. As a college town with the impending arrival of thousands of students, town officials were under pressure.

Durham's mask ordinance became effective in August of 2020 – three months before the state.

"It's easier when everyone knows what's expected," said Petra Vopalenska, store manager at Hayden Sports.

As the school year at Durham's resident university draws to a close and vaccinations are administered, community members are taking the time to reflect on the COVID-19 experience in Durham. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Law enforcement officers, university officials and residents were pleased with the rollout. And to the relief of many concerned residents, the student body cooperated.

## The Summer after the Lockdown

In March of 2020, the nation fell into lockdown mode due to the soaring COVID-19 cases in the United States. Durham patiently waited to safely open up again.

"We shut down for five weeks until mid-May," Vopalenska said. "We've been open ever since." According to Vopalenska, Hayden Sports urged customers to wear masks as soon as they reopened. At that time, there was no ordinance.

"Initially there was some resistance," she said.

Before the mandate, Vo-

palenska and her coworkers were "frustrated and exhausted" with enforcing mask wearing in the store.

The town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) worked on solutions all summer.

The discussion of a town mandate began in July 2020. Sam Flanders, a Durham resident, was cited in the Durham Town Council meeting minutes as concerned with the impending arrival of UNH students. This triggered an ongoing conversation of a mandate in Durham.

Meanwhile, UNH was brainstorming ways for a safe arrival and adaptation of the students back into Durham. Also in July 2020, the Faculty Senate thought of having students sign an informed consent agreement "We [want] them to acknowledge that they have a role to play here and if they don't follow these rules they cannot come to campus," said Provost Wayne Jones in the meeting. This contract, later coined as the Wildcat Pledge, stated that students "must follow guidelines both on and off campus and comply with all town ordinances" according to UNH's COVID-19 website.

"The Durham [UNH] campus communicates regularly with the town of Durham," said UNH President James Dean during the Faculty Senate meeting on Aug. 30, 2020.

The Durham Town Council unanimously voted on a mask ordinance on Aug. 3, 2020.

Employees at Hayden Sports noticed a difference in the amount of people wearing masks on the premises.

"Once it became [required] town and statewide to wear masks, it was easier to control," she said.

## The First Months of the Mask Ordinance

Durham police officer Holly Malasky commented on what it was like to enforce the mask mandate in the fall.

"Very early on, there were a lot of unknowns, so people in Durham were wearing masks anyway," she said. "The [community] was overwhelmingly pro-mask mandate and positive for its adoption and the safe return of students."

Malasky added that Durham used multiple platforms to promote the mask mandate, including signage inside businesses and road signs throughout downtown. Law enforcement personally visited local businesses to deliver signs stating the new COVID-19 guidelines for the town. The Durham Police Department also took advantage of the university's mass emails by including the ordinance in messages to the student body.

"Educate, remind, reiterate," Malasky said, "that's our mantra."

Town Council Chair Katherine "Kitty" Marple noted that she noticed hardly any resistance from residents.

About a month and a half after its installment, the mandate was deemed a success. Durham Police issued 499 warnings and handed out more than 90 masks. They issued no fines or summonses. Chief Rene Kelley of Durham PD reported no resistance.

The article came about following a 61-day extension of the mandate.

UNH Police Chief Paul Dean expressed satisfaction with the rollout on the university side, as well. Dean said the UNH Police Department felt supported by the university and the town of Durham, and felt that his department and the Durham Police Department were on the same page.

"[The Durham Police Department and the UNH Police Department] both believe that education is key in this public health emergency," Dean said. "Providing masks and educating the community has been the most effective tool." Dean noted that UNH installed an online complaint form if anyone in the university community felt inclined to report a non-emergent violation. He added that "some people have used it."

UNH achieved their goal set in July and remained in Yellow mode the entire fall semester. No fines or summonses were ever issued.

## Spring Weather's Effect on the Ordinance

After a quiet few months in Durham, operations resumed at UNH on Feb. 1, 2021. As

springtime weather crept in, wintertime layers, and in some cases masks, began to shed.

"[We've] noticed a little less mask wearing as the weather gets nicer," Malasky said. "On one of the first nice weekends in March, I saw about 15 people without masks in five minutes."

Malasky added that of the 15, only about five were argumentative when she asked them to put on a mask.

Marple didn't notice it firsthand, but she received some complaints from residents.

"There were a few residents concerned about outdoor maskless parties," she said.

Durham resident Jerry Needell said that the Main Street maskless parties "don't make it very inviting to go downtown."

He added that he was very pleased with the initial response, but felt things have been laxer recently.

"I think people are getting tired of [the mask wearing] at this point, as with most places," he added.

A UNH student commented on their choice to attend outdoor maskless parties. They asked to remain anonymous.

"My friends and I usually just stay isolated from the rest of the crowd if we're at parties," they said.

This student felt that being tested for COVID-19 twice a week through the university and staying in their circle was being cautious enough for the given circumstances.

"College only lasts so long, and I just turned 21," the student added. "I'm still cautious about it. I think a lot of people are. I just don't want to look back and regret not having had a college social life."

According to Marple, townspeople are mostly appreciative to students, though, for wearing their masks as much as they have.

Emily Feliciano, a Durham resident, added that when running errands or taking her kids to playgrounds in other local communities, she sees "way more maskless people" than in Durham.

"I'm happy with the student body, and I will always support them here," Feliciano said.

"Compared to other neighboring towns, I'm thankful to live

in Durham."

Marple said she hoped residents would relax more once vaccinations were given to the student body. Marple's comment was given shortly before UNH's announcement on April 2, 2021 of a vaccine clinic for in-state students.

Now, UNH has conducted vaccination clinics for in-state and out-of-state university and community members. According to Dean, about 6,000 people have been vaccinated with at least their first Moderna or Pfizer shot through the university.

## Looking Ahead - Town Vs. State

With the announcement from Gov. Chris Sununu lifting the statewide mask mandate, communities like Durham remain cautiously optimistic. Safety of the student body and the town's residents remain a top priority to town and university officials.

Durham Town Administrator Todd Selig commented that the continuation of Durham's mask ordinance, which remains in effect, will rely on a multitude of factors: CDC and state COVID-19 case information, the potential of new COVID-19 variants, and partnership with the university.

"Durham and UNH work very closely together, so we'll be aligning our on-campus and off-campus efforts into the summer and the fall," Selig said via email. "I'd anticipate the local mask mandate to extend into the May/June timeframe for now, and potentially longer."

Selig added that resumption of the mandate could occur at the start of the fall 2021 semester.

In Selig's Durham Friday Updates for April 30, 2021, he officially announced to the community that the Durham ordinance will remain in effect through at least June 5, despite the announcement from Sununu on April 16.

Selig wrote, "The lifting of the state-wide mandate by the Governor does not diminish the importance of wearing a face mask. The threat to public health from COVID-19 is real."





# Support grows for offshore wind development on Seacoast

By Ben Domaingue  
STAFF WRITER

With the Biden administration aiming to expand renewable energy projects along the East Coast, research from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) shows high support from coastal recreation visitors. Recreation, which accounts for nearly \$1.5 billion in annual economic impact for New Hampshire, remains an essential economic sector. UNH found widespread support, with nearly 77% of coastal recreation visitors supporting offshore wind development (OWD) along the New Hampshire Seacoast. “This study takes a closer look at the lingering assumption that offshore wind in the United States might hurt coastal recreation and tourism when in fact, we found the opposite,” said Michael Ferguson, assistant professor of recreation management and policy. “Our findings suggest that OWD will likely have little impact on coastal recreation and tourism, and in some instances, may even help amplify visitation.” The study, which surveyed visitors at 18 different zones across the Seacoast, including beaches, marinas, boat launches, yacht clubs and angling locations, provided 50% of respondents with a simulation

of the proposed development, while the other 50% did not view it. Findings indicate that there was no impact on support whether or not the respondent viewed the simulation. “Most of these coastal recreation visitors frequented the area, so these are people with strong ties to the N.H. Seacoast,” said Ferguson. “And, since OWD has had its hurdles gaining traction and acceptance in the United States, our findings suggest that coastal recreation visitors are open and supportive of it and policymakers, natural resource managers, and the OWD industry should recognize coastal recreation and tourism as critical stakeholder sectors.” Despite widespread tourist support, Roger Stephenson, Northeast Regional advocacy director for the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, noted that OWD and the fishing industry must understand and accommodate one another in order to be successful. “The devil is in the details, let’s talk about that,” said Stephenson. “There will be people... let’s call this a surf and turf story. The fishing industry needs to adopt a willing suspension of disbelief. We’ll need wind turbine operators to understand and work with fishermen. The turf are the people

here in the state who will be faced with changes in the grid. There may be new grid related construction.” Stephenson noted that due to climate change, the Rhode Island lobster industry has been kneecapped by ambivalent action on renewable energy. “[Rhode Island] don’t have a lobster industry anymore, the waters are too warm. The fishermen are adapting to catching different kinds of fish and more squid,” said Stephenson. “They have to adapt, the ocean is changing, it has absorbed 90% of the heat from human-induced climate change.” Maine, which is responsible for 90% of the nation’s lobster yield, has benefited from climate change for the past two decades. In an interview with The New York Times, Dave Cousens, former president of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association outlined climate change’s impact on the state’s lobster industry. “Climate change really helped us for the last 20 years,” said Cousens. “Climate change is going to kill us, in probably the next 30.” A study conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that the Gulf of Maine is warming 99.9% faster than the rest of the planet’s oceans, and will continue to

warm at an accelerated rate for the next 80 years. Stephenson believes the benefits of off-shore wind development far outweigh the potential drawbacks. “I think ecosystems are being harmed much, much more from the impacts of a changing climate than they would be from the infrastructure that comes with offshore wind,” said Stephenson. Tom Burack, former commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and current attorney and consultant with Sheehan Phinney in Manchester, echoed Stephenson’s urgency on OWD development. “It’s becoming increasingly apparent that to achieve carbon free electricity [in New England] it will be [essential] to develop offshore wind projects,” said Burack. “The ultimate goal has to be to go completely renewable, but the matter is how long it will take to get there.” New Hampshire’s State Climate Action Plan developed in 2008-2009 by the Climate Change Policy Task Force appointed by then-Gov. John Lynch aims to achieve the “greatest feasible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while also providing the greatest possible long-term economic benefits to New Hampshire,” according to the plan.

Developed under Burack’s leadership, the plan recommends that New Hampshire reduce its emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and achieve a mid-term goal of 20% below 1990 levels by 2025. Currently, the plan’s mid-term and long-term goals are aspirational, and is not legally binding. In February, the New Hampshire House of Representatives considered proposed legislation to codify the Climate Action Plan’s goals into law, with a target of net-zero emissions by 2050, but the bill did not advance. Nevertheless, Burack sees cause for optimism if new renewable sources of electricity can help meet current demand levels while also servicing a transition to electric vehicles and more electric heating of homes and buildings. “The bottom line here is the future is very bright. We have so much to look forward to because we see that [with offshore wind and other renewables] there are ways for us to both address climate change and strengthen our economy, create new jobs and [at the same time continue to] protect [and enjoy] the natural resources here in New Hampshire that we all cherish,” said Burack.

# UNH sees lowest COVID-19 cases since September 2020

By Ben Domaingue  
STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) has seen a sharp decline in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases within the community. Even as the university was forced to transition to its orange mode of operations and struggled containing COVID-19 cases in February, positivity rates are the lowest they have been since September. Cases spiked in early February, with cases peaking at a high of 506 on Feb.19. With an average of 43 daily positive cases, over 498 individual students were in isolation, with another 637 in quarantine. Only 31 active cases remain within the community,

with 28 students in isolation, along with one faculty member and two staff members. Quarantine numbers remain high, with 108 individuals quarantined, with 18 quarantined on campus. Even as Gov. Chris Sununu lifted New Hampshire’s statewide mask mandate on April 16, Durham and UNH maintained their own individual mandates for community members. This sharp decline in cases can potentially be attributed to warmer weather, as well as increasing vaccination rates among students. UNH held three vaccination clinics for community members throughout April, with over 6,000 total appointments booked between the clinics. Ronald O’Keefe, UNH’s

assistant director of emergency management was responsible for overseeing the three clinics. “The support we’ve had between the nursing students, faculty and staff, Whittemore Center, recreation, athletics, McGregor Memorial Ambulance, Durham Fire Department. I’m just overwhelmed with it and I am extremely happy with how it’s been going,” said O’Keefe. During the first two clinics, O’Keefe noted UNH had received over 4,200 appointments, with nearly 3,400 appointments scheduled by students. The third clinic, which had expanded eligibility, scheduled 2,706 appointments, with 2,356 individuals receiving their shots. Even with the expanded

eligibility, fewer appointments were booked and technical issues caused much longer wait times for students. According to O’Keefe, the average wait time was 30 minutes, even as six additional stations were added to simplify the process. “Overall, the UNH COVID vaccination team operated at a high level of efficiency and professionalism,” said O’Keefe. New Hampshire has one of the highest vaccination rates within the country, with over 60% of eligible adults having received their first shot. According to a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), they found that both the first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna’s mRNA COVID-19 vaccines provided some level of

protection against COVID-19. The CDC found that partial vaccination, which is defined as 14 days after receiving the first dose of either vaccine yields an efficacy of 53% for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 47% for Moderna’s vaccine. Though cases appear to be trending downwards, UNH Police Chief Paul Dean urges students to remain vigilant against COVID-19 and continue to adhere to safety measures. “I encourage the campus community to continue to be vigilant. Consider getting vaccinated, wear your mask, physically distance, and wash your hands. Together, we can make a difference,” said Dean in a statement.

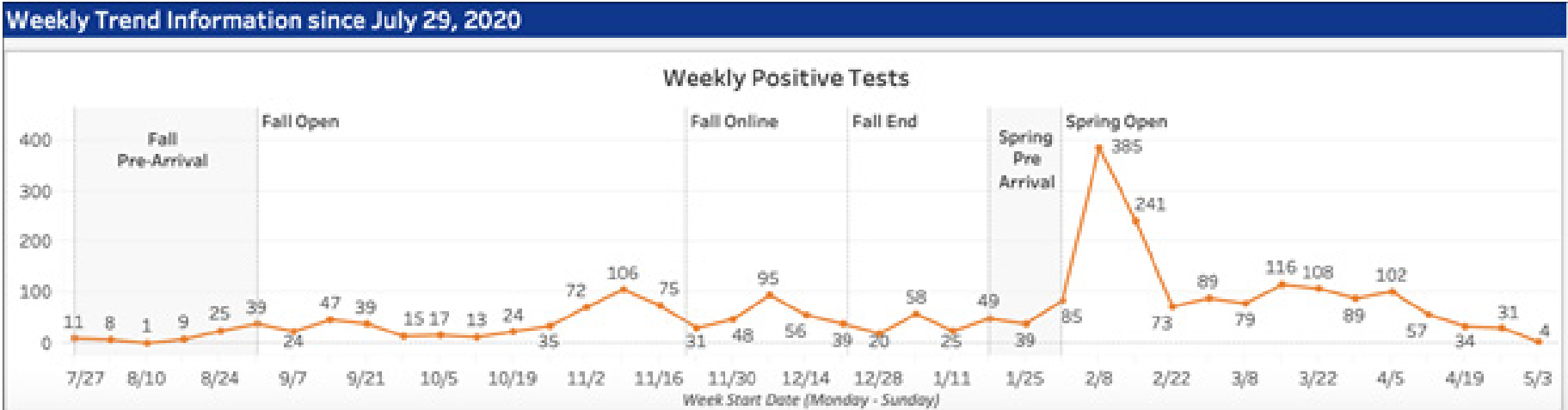


Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.









## SCOPE welcomes star Bruins player

**By Aubrey Benoit**  
STAFF WRITER

By 2006, Brad Marchand was drafted to play for New England's beloved Boston Bruins. Between then and now, he has won a Stanley Cup, World Championship gold and the World Cup gold. A left winger, a proud father and a classy drinker, University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Student Committee On Popular Entertainment (SCOPE) welcomed Marchand to a live Q&A Monday evening.

SCOPE members James Matias and Megan Hurd led the Q&A with itching questions from UNH students that had joined the Zoom link to the interview. Students asked questions that ranged from Marchand's best advice all the way to playoff season. Even with thousands of questions rolling in, Matias and Hurd were still able to let students be heard and make sure Marchand was comfortable.

Marchand made it abundantly clear throughout the Q&A how much he values his teammates. He talked about his own line, saying that they work well together and are a "good lineup, no doubt." This year there are new players acquired at the deadline Marchand has gotten to know.

"They're great. They bring a lot of depth that we needed. They're all great guys off the ice... We're lucky to have them," Marchand said. They appear to fit in very well, despite the pressure of being new players on the team. Hurd added how important it is to have good connections with your teammates on and off the ice and Marchand agreed. "I think that's a thing our team does a really good job of, and we know that. [Coaches] care more about their character in the room and who they are off the ice than what they bring on the ice-- that's secondary," Marchand said.

He and his team take a lot of pride in their dynamics off the ice. Their ability to be good people allows the team to be closer and build good work ethics that evidently creates a strong dynamic.

What happens behind the scenes, though? Hurd asked Marchand what his game day rituals are. "I eat fish and sweet potatoes and broccoli on game

day. I like to sleep for like 45 minutes to an hour in the afternoon and have a coffee from the same place. Typical stuff. You can't be consistent all the time. There are too many variables," Marchand responded. The 32-year-old described himself as "simple." Students however, comment saying that he's "elite" and even "filthy"-- in the best way possible.

Matias dove deeper into some of the ways Marchand celebrates any wins, specifically when the Bruins won the World Cup in 2011. "That whole summer was a blur," Marchand said. The Bruins partied every night in the heart of Boston. However, paparazzi were eager to sneak photos and release them to the media, which was not great publicity for the team. "We were doing what any 21, 22 year-old would do if they won a trophy," Marchand said. If they win again, Marchand believes they will go on a trip instead to avoid bad publicity.

Bouncing from bar to bar in Boston, Marchand told Matias that he's a classy drinker, typically ordering root beer with Captain Morgan. "Otherwise I'll go Captain straight up or Captain and Coke... I like Captain though. It goes down easy," Marchand said. He gets quite a bit of attention when he goes to the bar as well, but his wife, Katrina, doesn't like the attention he gets when he's out.

The Q&A got more casual, with Matias and Hurd laughing with Marchand, making the interview more like a conversation. They joked about dressing nicely only waist up while on Zoom calls, wearing sweatpants or as Matias added, "no pants." Marchand wore a grey button up shirt, but admitted he was rocking sweatpants out of the camera's view.

Marchand's love for the game started when he was only two-years-old. His inspiration? His dad, who also had a passion for the sport. Growing up in Canada, people didn't play football or basketball, but rather hockey and baseball. Marchand was able to skate on the ice almost every day, helping him land a spot with the Bruins today.

Students wondered if Marchand expects his children to play hockey. He said that they can do what they want and he doesn't

care if they don't want to play. He added that they like to do art above all things in their free time and that is something he is going to continuously support.

Even though he's loved the sport since he was two, there will come a time he retires as a Bruin. "I don't want to play if I'm not that good anymore and shouldn't be playing... I wouldn't be happy," Marchand said. He does hope that's not for a long time though.

A student asked what other sport would Marchand play if he didn't play hockey. He said it simply: baseball. "Those guys don't do anything and they make bank," Marchand said. He also mentioned golf, where he would be able to be in nice weather all day, versus the cold rink he spends most of his days.

The hockey star is talented without a doubt, but there are still times he struggles to stay composed. Playoffs are particularly stressful.

"You get pulled into a million directions-- you don't see any family. You don't see any friends," Marchand said.

The most pressure he's ever felt was in Game 7 against Vancouver. "I remember walking down to breakfast and nobody said a word. You could feel the tension everyone had," Marchand said. There is a certain pressure Marchand feels that comes from an entire city of fans counting on him. It helps if he keeps in contact with his closest people and makes sure to turn his phone off at night. Nonetheless, Marchand is an excellent player who exceeds in holding his head high on the ice.

The people he stays closest to are his family. However, be-

ing a celebrity in the center of a city makes it difficult to have a private life with them. As a younger player, he was able to take in and enjoy life as a celebrity. Being an older player with a family like Marchand, it's very difficult to enjoy overwhelming attention every time he is out in public.

"It takes away from the enjoyment you want to experience with your kids," Marchand said. He told the story of a time he went to a fair with his children and how they had to leave because he was getting swarmed.

"My kids couldn't even go on a ride, we couldn't play a game or throw darts at the balloons," Marchand said. Even though that kind of lifestyle is overwhelming, Marchand wouldn't trade it for anything. "I'll never be upset about that, but it is just unfortunate that I would like to experience a fair with my kids and not have to leave," Marchand said.

Matias asked Marchand's opinion on the infamous Tom Wilson of the Washington Capitals. "I like Tom as a player, I really do. I wish he was on our team. He's really effective, he plays really hard. If he was on our team everyone in Boston would love him... but we don't like him because obviously he hit Carlo hard there and hurt him," Marchand said.

Matias and Hurd started the live portion of the Q&A, where questions were allowed to roll in as the conversation went on. One question asked what the story is behind the number on Marchand's jersey.

"I was drafted in '06 in the third round. At that time, in those years they would give you the year you were drafted

as the first number and then the round you were drafted as the second number. I was drafted in '06 in the third round so 63," Marchand said.

Students were also curious about Marchand's relationship with Tyler Seguin. Marchand said he doesn't see him and hasn't seen him in a long time. When you're on the same team, it's easy to be close, but after Marchand was drafted for the Bruins, their friendship was much less close. Despite the distance, they will occasionally meet up in Dallas, TX. Marchand reiterates that they had "fun times together."

Fun with friends is cherished, however, Marchand has even more fun being competitive. His favorite team to play against is Toronto-- mostly because the Bruins have played them the most during playoff season in the past few years. It builds rivalry and makes for a fast and competitive game that everyone can enjoy.

"I am not qualified for anything outside of hockey," Marchand said as the Q&A wrapped up. Despite being a hockey star now, Marchand knows one day he will need to retire and have another purpose. Something like real estate catches his eye, but Marchand is still on the search to find a new passion. "You might as well find something you do and you love. That's a big reason that we got into it too," Marchand said.

Marchand has proved himself to be an easygoing and dedicated player. SCOPE wrapped up the Q&A and wished Marchand all the best of luck in his game the following day against the Pittsburgh Penguins.



*Photo courtesy of the NHL.*



# SCOPE presents Clockwork DJ



On Tuesday, April 29 the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Student Committee on Popular Entertainment (SCOPE) hosted a live Zoom Q&A session with Mac Miller’s trusted DJ, Clockwork DJ. The Q&A was followed by a live DJ set and the event was titled, ‘Stories from the road about Mac Miller.’



Photos courtesy of SCOPE.

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# Looking forward to a more open, safe summer in N.H.

By **Evan Edmonds**  
STAFF WRITER

New Hampshire is gearing up to reopen this summer after a long year of limitations and low interaction: the statewide mask mandate has been lifted and vaccination numbers continue to rise - Granite Staters are excited to get back to normal.

It's easy to get carried away in the progress we've made as a state and as a country. It's there - we're better off than a year ago, which isn't saying much - but we have to continue to do our jobs and play it safe this summer. Vaccination rates are rising, according to NHPR, to over 30% of the state's population, but COVID-19 is still here. Mid-April, the bi-weekly positive cases peaked at 434, which was more than "10 times as a high as it was back in October." Whether that

trend is just a coincidence due to nicer weather, or due to a lack of care, or a mix of both, it's hard to tell.

I'm not a fan of the whole "COVID fatigue" theory - the sense that people are getting tired of social distancing and being responsible because time has passed isn't a valid enough excuse. If a year of hardship is all it takes to push us back into old habits that put others' safety at risk, then all our progress we've made to this point is going to be undone.

This summer is a chance for us to do more than we've been doing, that's for sure, but let's not get carried away. Remaining responsible by not having huge gatherings and everyone doing their part to get vaccinated is a critical part of that. Doing our individual part is the best gateway to anything near "normal" and we're going to need that to be a collective

mindset, especially in New Hampshire.

Coming out of the mask mandate and trying to get back to normal has a lot to do with the need to support local businesses. Retailers and restaurants have been left to make their own decisions about maintaining their mask requirements or not and they need the public's support regardless of their decision.

The least we can do as patrons is to respect their wishes. They're doing their best to keep all of us and their employees safe and in return they're working hard to maintain the places we love to visit.

Portsmouth is ready and rearing to go - each warm day in the last few weeks like the calm before the storm. As someone who works in a kitchen in downtown Portsmouth, it's easy to see that it's had its busy days as April has

gone on - those few particularly nice Saturdays have seen Market Street begin to flood with people once again. The sidewalks are lined with barriers and roped off sections providing any extra seating and support that restaurants can get. In the kitchen, the return to these types of nights is exhilarating - finally the feeling we've forgotten - being so busy the shift flies right by! Those Saturdays have been a welcome gift and most of all reassuring for the summer months to come. Although it's gotten hectic, there's no comparing it to the impending forecast of people rushing to get back out into Portsmouth once the time comes.

Bow Street restaurants have started to batten down the hatches, reinforce staff and work out the kinks before this summer's inevitable "post-COVID revolution" that's sure

to feel the closest it's felt to a normal Portsmouth summer in quite some time.

Those decks are sure to fill up, those streets are going to be packed and Portsmouth is going to be ready for it. That being said, there's no room for COVID fatigue in this equation. Assuming everyone does their part, we can scrape closer and closer to what we're used to getting out of our summers. We want to enjoy a drink on the decks, we want to get our chance to lay out on the beach again, we want to soak in the sun with our friends and family. It's a collective effort that everyone needs to be a part of. Restaurants, retailers and more want and need the support. We're going to be waiting mid-May, into June, July and beyond so don't be afraid to come out and support local businesses, just do it respectfully and responsibly.



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# From the *Editor's Desk...*

## The new norm: media reform

World Press Freedom Day on May 3 was a day for all journalists to take a step back and embrace their liberties.

Sacrifices by Peter Zenger, John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon when Great Britain tried to censor America in the early eighteenth century paved the way for the freedoms that the press has today, including the Pentagon Papers being published after New York Times Co. v. United States and the publishing of all the documents Edward Snowden submitted to The Washington Post.

Throughout our history as a free nation, a free press has been the backbone that holds our society together and keeps it from imploding on itself. It is the checks and balances for the powerful, that the everyday citizen is entitled to. In turn, that reality makes a journalist's job one of the most crucial to our democracy. There is so much power in the written word, as it controls much of the public perception of a society and how it is perceived from afar as well.

*Trust is not in abundance when it comes to the press nowadays, as recent Gallup.com studies show that only 9% of citizens in the U.S. have "a great deal" of trust in the mass media while 33% have "no trust at all."*

However, the act of celebrating our "free press" in America currently seems as conflicted as ever.

Trust is not in abundance when it comes to the press nowadays, as recent Gallup.com studies show that only 9% of citizens in the U.S. have "a great deal" of trust in the mass media while 33% have "no trust at all."

Contributing to the mistrust is the fact that a very select num-

ber of billionaires own all the media corporations in the U.S., which leads to biases on both sides, whether it be on CNN, Fox News or CNBC. Also, with the decrease in funding for metro dailies, journalism has become increasingly more analytically based and that has forced people to discern what is factual and what isn't. Due to most people not taking the time to do this deciphering, media narratives and soundbites have often controlled the political and national narratives for much of the last decade.

There have been rifts between the media and presidential administrations for centuries, but they never publicly denounced them and threatened the credibility quite like former President Donald Trump has. What made Trump a little different was his instant, overt, and distasteful nature towards the media. Once he was first elected, Trump was uttering 10 times as many false claims as any other president throughout their first two months of holding office according to Politifact. This

was seen calling a NYT reporter an epithet. So, Trump's experience was not anything new, but the way he handled it was an anomaly.

This method that Trump utilized, marginalized the media as a whole and created the narrative that the whole institution was corrupt and promoted false claims; but this issue transcends the Trump administration or any of its tactics.

Eliminating the superiority complex that most talking heads have and being more transparent about where information comes from could very well increase the trust in the mass media, no matter where the information is being spued.

With the increased consumption of digital, soundbite content that often doesn't tell the full story, journalists and news corporations need to take it upon themselves to use their liberties to promote truthfulness and establish what each piece of information they produce represents.

In the midst of journalistic turmoil, the press has still managed to make strides in recent months. Journalists were given more access to the Derek Chauvin trial in Minnesota, despite COVID-19 regulations capping the press availability to two journalists at a time. The judge also ruled that television cameras were allowed in the courtroom, which prompted the first ever filmed court case in Minnesota history.

We need to keep making these strides while signifying between what belongs on the editorial page and the unbiased information that the American people are entitled to.

**Josh Morrill**  
Executive Editor

# Got Opinions?

Send yours to [tnh.editor@unh.edu](mailto:tnh.editor@unh.edu)

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LACROSSE

# Blanding rounds out season for ‘Cats with seven points

By **Spencer Marks**  
SPORTS WRITER

DURHAM, N.H. — In their final game of the season, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) lacrosse (4-7,3-6) hosted Hartford (0-9,0-9). The Wildcats dominated this game, only trailing at one point all day which ended with a final score of 15-10.

UNH head coach Sarah Albrecht expressed her main takeaway from the final game of the 2021 spring season. “I was really happy with our seniors and I think they just really wanted to go out with a bang,” said Coach Albrecht. “That was the biggest takeaway I had, to just see them all play well in their last game.”

The game started off with a Hartford goal. Senior attacker Debbie Phillips assisted first-year defender Dylan Halloran less than a minute into action. This goal was the Hawks only lead of the day.

The ‘Cats bounced back fast with four straight goals in less than seven minutes. Senior midfielder Gabby Masseur tied the game at one with an unassisted goal in the fourth minute. Senior midfielder Elizabeth Blanding followed up with an unassisted goal five minutes later. This was her first of five on the day which led the Wildcats to victory.

Senior midfielder Julia Neyland and graduate student midfielder Rylee Leonard each

got in on the action to make the score 4-1 in favor of UNH.

Junior midfielder Jessica Harrison cut the deficit to two with an unassisted goal with 17:24 to play in the first half. However, about three minutes later Blanding was assisted by Leonard to once again give UNH a three goal lead.

The back and forth affair continued when Hartford got back on the board as Halloran was assisted by senior attacker Megan Miller for her second goal of the game with 13:30 to go.

UNH went on a three goal tear thanks to sophomore attacker Liv Dunn, Blanding and Leonard. Dunn was assisted by Blanding in the 18th minute. Blanding and Leonard each followed up with unassisted goals of their own.

The first half was wrapped up by Halloran with her third goal of the game. This one was unassisted and took place with just under two minutes remaining. This gave Hartford their fourth goal on the day and cut the UNH lead to four heading into halftime.

Hartford started off the second half right where they left off. Sophomore midfielder Shannon Tuozzo scored an unassisted goal about one minute out of halftime.

Not long after, Neyland scored two straight unassisted goals to put the Wildcats up 10-5.

The Hawks answered with another unassisted goal from



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHINA WONG  
Wildcat senior midfielder Elizabeth Blanding takes on the Hartford defense

Harrison in the 36th minute. It seemed that for every Hartford goal the ‘Cats had another two to throw back at them and this continued to be the case as Masseur and Blanding scored back to back unassisted goals.

Tuozzo scored her second of the game with 13:52 to play but the Hawks were once again met with back to back Wildcat goals. Neyland assisted first-year midfielder Kailee Woods at 9:54 and Blanding was assisted by senior attacker Sabrina Grovom. This put the ‘Cats up 14-7 with just over nine minutes remaining in their season.

Senior Hartford attacker Birdie Montes assisted Harrison with 7:56 to play.

UNH responded a minute later with Woods’ second goal of the day. She was assisted by Blanding. This was the Wildcats final score of the season.

This assist by Blanding notched her seventh point on the day which is a career high for the senior.

The last two goals of the game were scored by Hartford’s senior midfielder Kaitlyn D’Andrea. Both goals were unassisted but amounted to nothing as the Hawks fell to the Wildcats by a 15-10 final.

Junior Wildcat goalkeeper Issy Torres recorded 14 saves in the season finale.

Albrecht noted the difficulties of the season but is excited to see what her group can do

next season.

“It was definitely a tough season, but obviously one we will never forget with everything that has been going on,” Coach Albrecht explained. “We have a lot of talent coming back and I am looking forward to seeing what the dynamic is with being able to work with them and trying to get better every single day.”

Following Saturday’s victory, three Wildcats were honored with All-Conference selections. Graduate student Tatum Benesh was named to the America East (AE) All-Conference First Team. Leonard and Neyland were each named to the AE All-Conference Second Team.

TRACK AND FIELD

# Track and Field stumble at AE Championships

By **Jared Gustafson**  
SPORTS WRITER

LOWELL, MASS. — The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s and men’s track & field teams traveled to Cushing Field Complex at UMass Lowell this past weekend to compete in the two-day American East Championships.

After the first day was complete the women’s team found themselves in first place with a total of 46 points, nine points in front of second-place Vermont with 37. The men’s earned second place after the first day was completed with 39 points, only two points behind UMass Lowell.

The women’s side did not see any first-place finishes Saturday but saw plenty in the top-five which got them to 46 points on the day. Some notable mentions were junior Lauren Quann who placed fourth for the ‘Cats with a throw of 132-8 feet in the javelin. Sophomore Danielle Heine earned a bronze medal in the pole vault with a jump of 11-1 3/4. First-year Wildcat Mia Taranko earned a fifth-place finish in the long jump with a jump of 18-3 3/4

feet. Junior Lauren Dean took fifth-place in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11 minutes, 15.62 seconds. Graduate student Meg Champagne led the ‘Cats in the 10,000-meter race with a time of 37:01.79 which was good enough for a second-place finish.

In the preliminaries, UNH earned 11 spots in the finals for the 1,500-meter race, 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter dash, 800-meter dash, 100-meter dash, and the 400-meter hurdles.

On the men’s side, they were led by graduate student Nicolas Sevilla-Connelly who won the 3,000 steeplechase. Sevilla-Connelly has dominated this event all season as this is his third first-place finish in the event.

The ‘Cats also saw another great performance by junior Nate Hobbs in the long jump; he earned a second-place finish in the event with a jump of 24-7 1/4 feet. Both Sevilla-Connelly and Hobbs earned a team-high eight points in their events, helping them to get to their 39 points.

Other highlights came from junior Patrick Brogioli who took fifth-place in the ham-

mer throw with a distance of 168-1 feet. Junior John King Jr. earned a fifth-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 183-9 feet.

In the preliminaries, senior James Wilkes and sophomore Aidan O’Hern advanced to the finals in the 1,500. Senior Michael Monahan and first-year Wildcat William Love both advanced to the finals in the 110-meter hurdles. Sophomore Kenney McElroy won the third preliminary heat which advanced him to the finals in the 800.

During Sunday’s meet, both the women’s and men’s teams had worse days than expected. Coming into Sunday the women’s team was in first place with a total of 46 points but after Sunday ended, they fell one spot and finished in second place with 145 points. The men’s team came into the day with a total of 39 points and in second place. After Sunday’s meet was completed, however, the men fell two spots and finished in fourth place in the meet with 96 points.

For the women’s side, this marks the fourth time in the past five years that they have

finished second place in the American East Championships. The highlight of the day for the women’s team came from graduate student Alyssa Colbert who broke her own school record for the third time this season in the discus throw with a throw of 169-2 feet. Colbert ended up finishing in first place in the event and won the gold. Colbert also won the silver in the hammer with a throw of 166-8 feet.

The other first place finish came from the 4x800 relay team that consisted of first-year athlete Lily Doody, junior Nicole Yeomans, senior Cayla Barretto and first-year athlete Elizabeth Martell who ran a time of 8:58.19.

Other highlights during Sunday’s meet came from graduate student Bosibori Mosongo who earned a second-place finish in the heptathlon with 4,630 points. First-year athlete Elizabeth Martell continued to dominate in her first year on the team as she earned the bronze in the 800.

The highlight of the day for the men’s team came from graduate student Zachary

Astle who finished in first place and earned the gold in the shot put with a throw of 55-0.75 feet. Astle totaled 21 points during the weekend’s meet which was a team high.

The ‘Cats are scheduled to compete once again on May14-15 at the New England Championships, which will be held at Central Connecticut State University.

Women:  
2nd - 145



Men:  
4th - 96



FOOTBALL

Players to watch ahead of fall football season

By Cameron Beall  
SPORTS EDITOR

UNH football only had the opportunity to play one game this spring. In week they hosted UAlbany and lost by a final of 24-20. While coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns may have halted their spring campaign, there are still more than a handful of players for UNH to be excited about before they kick off again on Sept. 4.

Sophomore quarterback Max Brosmer was drawing much of the buzz heading into this season. He didn't get a true opportunity to showcase his improvements from his first season under center, however. Brosmer played 11 games in 2019 while racking up 1967

yards and cashing in on 12 passing touchdowns.

The Georgia native looked improved in the first half against UAlbany as he navigated the pocket well and dotted a handful of throws. In the second half Brosmer sailed a few throws and was strip-sacked en route to the team's lone loss this spring. His final stat line had the sophomore completing 20 of his 35 attempts while recording 128 yards and two touchdowns.

It will be interesting to see the strides Brosmer will take by the time he takes the field at Stony Brook with two full offseasons under his belt as the starter. However, this means that the quarterback will have only played one game over his previous 22 months. In-game

experience should be one of the only concerns for Brosmer heading into the fall. He possesses the decision-making of an elite passer, but he'll need to tighten up his accuracy before he truly takes that next step. Although Brosmer is far from the most athletic player on the field he remains elusive enough to evade pressure when the pocket collapses. His ability to extend plays will play in the team's favor with such strong group of skill players around him.

On the defensive side, the player to look out for will be junior defensive end Gunner Gibson. In 2019 Gibson led the defense with 9.5 tackles for loss and tied for second in sacks with four. Gibson was the leader against UAlbany with 1.5 sacks contributing to his

2.5 tackles for loss and seven total tackles. He will continue to head the Wildcat front as senior Brian Carter has confirmed that he will not be returning for the fall season. Gibson will help make up for the seven sacks that Carter and former Wildcat Josh Kania left behind in 2019.

A player to keep an eye out for in the fall is redshirt first-year linebacker Zedane Williams. Williams showed in the lone game this season why he is a prime candidate to break out this fall. The Massachusetts native displayed his explosiveness against UAlbany when he filled out the stat sheet with a team-leading nine tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss, a pass breakup and a blocked punt right before halftime to swing momentum

back in the Wildcats' favor.

Williams only played in four games in his redshirt season, recording five total tackles and one pass breakup. Fall 2021 looks like it should be the linebacker's first full season and if that March 5 game was any indication, it seems the UNH defense will remain in good shape with Williams in the lineup.

The Wildcats will be on the road for their Sept. 4 game at Stony Brook before heading home in week two to host Towson. UNH will also play host to James Madison, Dartmouth, Richmond and Maine. They will be on the road to face Lafayette, Pittsburgh, Elon, UAlbany and Rhode Island.



ZEDANE WILLIAMS

LB-10

2019:  
4 Games, 5 Tackles,  
1 Pass Breakup

March 5 vs. UAlbany:  
9 Tackles, 2.5 TFL,  
1 Pass Breakup,  
1 Blocked Punt



GUNNER GIBSON

LB-49

2019:  
10 Games, 40 Tackles,  
9.5 TFL, 4 Sacks

March 5 vs. UAlbany:  
7 Tackles, 2.5 TFL,  
1.5 Sacks

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL TALBOT



MAX BROSMER

QB-16

2019:  
58.8 Comp %,  
1967 Pass Yards, 12 TD,  
12 INT

March 5 vs. UAlbany:  
57.1 Comp %,  
128 Pass Yards, 2 TD,  
12 INT

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHINA WONG

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wildcats reload for fall season

By Brackett Lyons  
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's soccer team didn't get a chance to compete in the 2021 post-season. The team earned a spot in the America East Tournament, but due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns within the program, they were forced to withdraw. The 'Cats had a strong season up until their early exit. They had the best start in program history (4-0) and never dropped a game at Wildcat Stadium.

Head coach Steve Welham got the most out of his young squad. The team fielded 11 first-year athletes, many of whom broke into the starting lineup. With most of a season under their belts, the group should be poised for a breakout season in the fall of 2021.

Two rookies, Alivia Kelly and Anna Hewlett took home All-Rookie honors in the America East (AE). Kelly was also named to the AE All-Con-

ference Second Team. Senior captain Francesca Picicci was the other Wildcat picked to the Second Team. She and co-captain Casey Peterson would be valuable assets to Welham should they return for a fifth year.

There's no question that goalkeeper Cat Sheppard will be back. The junior posted a stellar season between the posts for UNH, keeping a clean sheet in three games and only conceded five goals all season. With the entire defense returning, Sheppard will look to have her best season yet as a Wildcat.

The biggest bolster to the roster will likely come from Whitney Wiley who went down with an injury early this season. Before her year was cut short, the attacking midfielder posted three goals and an assist in four matches. UNH's attack was noticeably better with Wiley on the field. Hopefully, with the summer to recover, Wiley will be able to roar back into action for the 'Cats in the fall.



# DOWN AND OUT

UNH loses 2-0 to Kentucky while missing three to COVID-19



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No. 24 University of Kentucky defeated No.11 University of New Hampshire in the second round of the NCAA tournament on May 2

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GREENSBORO, N.C.— No. 11 nationally ranked University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s soccer (8-1-1, 7-0-1) fell to No. 24 Kentucky (12-4-2, 3-3-1) in the second round of the NCAA Tournament by a final of 2-0 with goals from senior Bailey Rouse and first-year defender Jalen Bigby. Kentucky will move on to the third round to face No. 4 Wake Forest.

The game started off fast and furious for UNH despite being without three starters who had to be left in Durham due to coronavirus (COVID-19) protocols. UNH was without top goal scorers Paul Mayer and Victor Menudier and on the defensive end they were without graduate student Sam Henneberg. UNH handled possession for most of the first 10 minutes and got their first shot on goal five minutes

into the game but the shot was saved by senior goalkeeper Enrique Facusse.

UNH kept the pressure up and it seemed like they were bound to score the first goal. UNH had three chances right in front of the Kentucky net but Facusse robbed the ‘Cats of their goal, saving all three opportunities and keeping UNH off the scoreboard.

With UNH missing so many key players head coach Marc Hubbard was forced to play sophomore O’Neil Smith-Elias. Smith-Elias had only played in one other game this season and he only appeared for five minutes against Hartford. Smith-Elias laid a late slide-tackle on a Kentucky defender and tripped him up. The official on the field gave him a questionable red card and he was disqualified from the game and UNH had to play a player down the rest of the way.

The Wildcats battled with 10 men as Kentucky started their offensive push and held them off the scoreboard for 35 minutes until they took a 1-0

lead when junior Trey Asensio crossed a ball into the box and Rouse got his head on the ball just five yards in front of the goal and put it past UNH graduate goalkeeper Alejandro Robles.

At halftime Kentucky led 1-0 but UNH had a 3-1 edge in shots showing they still had some fight in them.

Exiting halftime UNH gave an easy opportunity to Kentucky turning the ball over in their own defensive end but Robles was able to bail them out with a diving save to keep the score 1-0.

The game was tough for UNH to get back into with the man disadvantage. They tried to pile in defensively and were able to slow the Kentucky attack but being down a player really hurt them on the offensive side. UNH was able to push the ball up on their offensive end but weren’t able to have any consistent pressure.

Kentucky added on to their lead in the 83rd minute and buried UNH’s hopes of moving onto the next round as the

ball bounced around the box until Bigby gained control and ripped a shot past the UNH keeper.

UNH did not come back from the 2-0 deficit even though they outshot Kentucky 8-7. Facusse didn’t face another shot on goal after the red card was given out. Meanwhile, Robles only had the one save on the day.

Hubbard was proud of the way his team battled while being down a player but ultimately it wasn’t enough for his team to pull out the win.

“Not the way we wanted it to go. I am proud about how we continued to play after getting the red card.” He continued, “I thought we showed our quality [of play] for probably 65-70 minutes of the game in terms of being able to move the ball despite being a man down.”

Hubbard also brought up the fact that UNH was without three of their starters after being left home due to COVID-19 protocols.

“Just a really hard lesson

for our guys, for everything we’ve been through. Three of our starters getting traced out before we even got down here and then getting a call like that 15 minutes in the game. It’s just a really cruel lesson for the guys to deal with,” Hubbard explained.

Looking ahead to the fall season Robles is currently the only player not set to return to the team. The 25-year-old graduate student has accumulated as impressive of a resume as the program could ask for during his two seasons in Durham.

The Wildcats eclipsed their highest national ranking in program history this season when they reached No. 10 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll. Hubbard and his group will garner as much national recognition as they ever have after accumulating a .950 winning percentage and the majority of their core coming back in the fall.

14’ Smith-Elias  
Red Card

35’ Rouse  
Goal

85’ Bigby  
Goal